

2. Organization

200. Design and Engineering Services Organization 200-1

2.1. Introduction	200-1
2.2. Statutory Authority.....	200-1

Figures

Figure 2-1 Regional Map	200-3
-------------------------------	-------

200. Design and Engineering Services Organization

- 200.1. Introduction
- 200.2. Statutory Authority

200.1. Introduction

The principal concern of this manual is with the design and engineering of highway facilities. The commissioner establishes the organizational part of the Department that performs design. Three regions and headquarters staff share responsibility for these functions. The three regions are comprised of Southeastern, Central, and Northern (see Figure 2-1). The regions perform the direct design functions while the headquarters staff provides support in policy and statewide standards. Overall design management is provided through the chief engineer at headquarters.

The organization of the Statewide Division of Design and Engineering Services (D&ES) is large and complex. A recent example of the structure for the D&ES organization and the various roles of its personnel is available at: <http://www.dot.state.ak.us/stwddes/dcsmisc/assets/pdf/desorgcht.pdf>.

The structure and personnel change frequently, so this chapter provides a reasonable picture, but not a totally accurate one.

200.2. Statutory Authority

Sec. 44.42.010. Commissioner of transportation and public facilities: The principal executive officer of the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities is the commissioner of transportation and public facilities. (E.O. No. 39, § 2 (1977))

Sec. 44.42.020. Powers and duties: The Department shall:

1. Plan, design, construct, and maintain all state modes of transportation and transportation facilities and all docks, floats, breakwaters, buildings, and similar facilities
2. Study existing transportation modes and facilities in the state to determine how they might be improved or whether they should continue to be maintained
3. Study alternative means of improving transportation in the state with regard to the

economic costs of each alternative and its environmental and social effects

4. Develop a comprehensive, long range intermodal transportation plan for the state
5. Study alternatives to existing modes of transportation in urban areas and develop plans to improve urban transportation
6. Cooperate and coordinate with and enter into agreements with federal, state, and local government agencies and private entities in exercising its powers and duties
7. Manage, operate, and maintain state transportation facilities and all docks, floats, breakwaters and buildings, including all state highways, vessels, railroads, pipelines, airports, and aviation facilities
8. Study alternative means of transportation in the state, considering the economic, social, and environmental effects of each alternative
9. Coordinate and develop state and regional transportation systems, considering deletions, additions, and the absence of alterations
10. Develop facility program plans for transportation and state buildings, docks, and breakwaters required to implement the duties in this section, including but not limited to functional performance criteria and schedules for completion
11. Supervise and maintain all state automotive and mechanical equipment, aircraft, and vessels, except vessels and aircraft used by the Department of Fish and Game or the Department of Public Safety
12. Supervise aeronautics inside the state, under AS 02.10
13. Complete and maintain a current inventory of public facilities, including a projection of the serviceability of the facilities and projections of replacements and additions to facilities needed to provide the level of services programmed by the various user

agencies, for municipalities with populations of less than 12,000, and for unincorporated communities, and perform those duties on a cooperative basis with larger municipalities

14. Adopt energy performance standards for public facilities of the state, the construction of which begins after July 1, 1980. The standards will be based on thermal and lighting energy standards established by the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers as adapted for use in high-latitude, cold climate environs
15. Provide planning assistance, including but not limited to energy audits and related technical services, to school districts and regional educational attendance areas to develop and implement:
 - a. Standards for the design, construction, and operation of rural educational facilities
 - b. Energy conservation measures for rural educational facilities

The Department may:

1. Engage in experimental projects relating to available or future modes of transportation and any means of improving existing transportation facilities and service
2. Exercise the power of eminent domain, including the declaration of taking as provided in AS 09.55
3. Publish plans, schedules, directories, guides, and manuals for distribution, with or without charge, to private or public entities or people (E.O. No. 39 § 2 (1977); am § 13 ch 168 SLA 1978; am § 12 ch 83 SLA 1980; am E.O. No. 50, § 10 (1981); am § 77 ch 138 SLA 1986)

Sec. 44.42.040. Departmental organization: The commissioner establishes regions within the state. The functions of the Department within each region shall be performed, to the maximum extent feasible, through a regional office. A regional transportation and public facilities director, appointed by the commissioner, directs each regional office. (E.O. No. 39, § 2 (1977))



REGIONAL MAP

Figure 2-1
Regional Map